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21 September 1949

MEMORANDUM "A"

Priorities of Soviet Military Programming

1. We are in general agreement with the ideas on priority expressed in the memorandum for the Director, [] 13 September 1949 by Admiral 25X1 Parsons and have some evidence to back them up. It is believed that the order of priority has been atomic energy, guided missiles, jet aircraft, radar, strategic bombers, with weapons for ground troops much further down the list.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMPT

SUBJECT : Priorities of Soviet Military Programming

REFERENCE: Memo for DCI, dated 10 November 1969 (DDI-205)
same subject

1. CIA concurs in the view that continuing information on priorities of Soviet military programming is of prime importance and is prepared to initiate a more exhaustive study of the subject.

2. CIA recognizes the difficulty and complexity of the task but nonetheless is strongly in favor of a major effort to determine Soviet research and production priorities. The value of such a study would extend beyond the weapons programs because a thorough study of priorities would enable us to direct our limited intelligence resources toward the most profitable ends. The careful selection of intelligence targets would in turn serve both operational and national intelligence objectives.

3. To date, CIA components have investigated the problem on a continuing basis and have produced no finished studies. The Office of Scientific Intelligence in CIA has done considerable work in the field of scientific and weapons priorities and a brief summary of the conclusions of the [redacted] OSI is attached as Enclosure "A". OSI considers, however, that it can go no further unless a more comprehensive study is undertaken with outside help. The Eastern European Division of the Office of Reports and Estimates has gathered considerable raw intelligence bearing upon production priorities. It believes that [redacted] should contribute materially and that better progress can be made through a more general approach to the problem. [redacted]

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4. CIA considers that any such study, which must be exceedingly comprehensive in scope and must be considered a long-range project, will necessarily involve all the agencies of the Intelligence Advisory Committee. CIA is prepared to undertake the proposed study if it can be assured of the fullest support by the other IAC agencies.

5. CIA is convinced that in a study of this scope the problem must be framed with the greatest care and the terms of reference must be thoroughly understood. CIA will request representatives of the [redacted] and of the intelligence agencies of the Intelligence Advisory Committee to meet under the chairmanship of CIA in order to examine the problem in detail and to set up the necessary frame of reference before further action is taken.

Signed - thru ER 11/28/49

R. H. HILLENBRAND
REAR ADMIRAL, USN
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Enclosure - 1
same subject

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